

## *Student achievement*

### **‘The New View’ at Albany High School**

They believe in their school. They believe in their peers. They believe in their teachers. Most importantly, they believe in themselves.

Seniors Sagira Knight and Elisia Maxwell, junior Maleeha Asif and sophomore Sa’adah Garbey know they are in good company at Albany High School. That’s why they got together last fall to highlight the positive aspects of their school. Their group, The New View, aims to rekindle something the girls say has been missing for too long: Falcon pride.



Members of The New View, left to right: Front row, Sagira Knight and Maleeha Asif. Back row, Sa’adah Garbey and Elisia Maxwell.

“We just want to show that there are a lot of good things here and a lot of good people here,” Elisia said.

The girls’ effort gained momentum in November with media coverage in the *Times Union* and on WTEN/TV-10. The New View’s first main event was Falcon Pride Day on Nov. 30. Hundreds of students painted their faces and wore blue and white to show off their Falcon pride. There were art and poetry contests, and the event resurrected a falcon mascot uniform that had become a little funky from lack of use.

The girls continue to work with their faculty advisor, John Doran, and Principal Maxine Fantroy-Ford to come up with new ways to engage the whole school community in fun events and projects that bring out the best in everyone.

“For me, I think it was more about trying to enhance the relationship between students and teachers, and bringing back the pride in the teachers,” Sagira said. “There are teachers who have a lot of pride in their school, but there also are some who have lost that connection with their students.”

Mr. Doran said that message has been well received.

“There are a lot of faculty members who have come into my room to say this is a wonderful thing that they are doing and how can I be a part of that,” he said. “When you see those people having a change in their attitude, it’s a wonderful thing.

“This is all about the girls trying to make a change here, and they’re doing a great job.”